


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Crown Copyright documents reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives give no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or fitness for the purpose of the information provided.

Images may be used only for purposes of research, private study or education. Applications for any other use should be made to The National Archives Image Library, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.



371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 5184

1978

61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1	2	3	4	5	6
1					
		2			

Reference:-
FO
371 / 61934

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 5184

2

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5184/5184/1

Lord Latham
& Mr. McNeill

2 June 1947

17 June 1947

Boycott of British Goods and Services in
United States.Announcement of correspondence with
Professor Lantieri, who proposed a
boycott of British Goods and Services in
the United States for the purpose
of influencing the policy of H.M.G. as potential.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

See within

H.B. 24/6

References.

no/o

(Print.)

61934

(How disposed of.)

W/it, Lord Latham
from Min of State

June 18

Mr. McNeill's Comps. to

Lord Latham
(returning comp.)

June 24

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

J.C. 24/6

14/9/48

Next Paper.

7149

Wt. 24772/717 17855 10/38 F.O.P.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Important³

10/5

It was unfortunately
over a private line
that Mr. Drake said
"Publishers be warned
as this is only for Public
But can't we all
be saved?"
7B

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
Reference:-

FO 371 / 61934

4

Easton Dept
for Mr Smith
to read and
return.

5/6.
Many thanks.
Returned
P. S. Davis
June 6

I think we should
~~not~~ tell Latham that
we see no objection to
his plans. It would be
to save the scheme at all
and cost.

1
2
1
3
4
5
2
6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

5
M. Birch

The M/S has
minutes "I think
we should tell
Latham that we see
no objection to
publishing. It would
help to send the
scheme off at half-
cost".

Could we now
have the department's
urgent comments?

f. R. Hall - 10/6.

Easton Dep.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

/I 211

1 2 3 4 5 6

1 2

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61934

Minutes.

I am inclined to agree with Mr. Beith. The only risk we take, as I see it, is that publication may force Mr. Smertenko and his friends for pride's sake to proceed with their plans. But they are likely to do this in any case, and it would be a pity to miss such a first-class opportunity of exposing to the deluded American public the workings of the vast propaganda machine of Zionism.

2. We clearly cannot appear in the matter, but we might perhaps offer Lord Latham some unofficial advice. If he does not know it already we might give him some background material on the American League for a Free Palestine, tying up this effort with Ben Hecht and his recent advertisements. From the point of view of American enlightenment it is important to give publicity to the letters to Judge Bennet and Billy Rose. Finally, we might do all we can to see that he and the "Daily Herald" attribute these views to "Zionist extremists" and not to Zionism or Americans generally.

F.B.A. Rundall,
11th June, 1947.

If M/Stek agrees.

*The Dept. is draft on the lines of
Mr Randall's minute.*

*N. American Dept. Please draft for the
M/S. signature. J.B. 12/6*

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Forward
E 5184

8



LONDON, S.E.1.

2nd. June, 1947.

*17 Encl
My dear Mr. Neill,*

I enclose copy of a letter from and of my reply to Johan J. Smertenko, who will be known to you and your Department. When here he repeatedly endeavoured to get me to join his Anglo-American Committee and, indeed, to become its President. I declined as, inter alia, the objects of the Committee were in conflict with the Government's Palestinian policy and because I became increasingly anxious as to the motives behind the Committee's activities. My misgivings received ample confirmation from the actions and the boastful statements of Smertenko in Italy, which led to his being forbidden to return to this Country. I thought you might be interested in the latest threats of this erstwhile professor of English literature turned agitator who, having lamentably failed to further his Anglo-American Committee in this Country, now, it appears, seeks to show a modest return to his American subscribers by a "pale and sickly" imitation of the exploits of Capt. Boycott of unhappy Irish memory.

Would it be useful to send copies of the letters to the "Daily Herald" or would that embarrass the Foreign Office?

all good wishes

Yours sincerely
The Rt. Hon. Hector McNeill, M.P.,
Minister of State.

Encs. Foreign Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371

/ 61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

2nd. June, 1947.

Dear Professor Smertenko,

After your unpardonable abuse of the hospitality of this Country and of the confidence of some of those, including myself, whose friendship you enjoyed, I suppose I ought not to be surprised that you should have written me suggesting that I should assist the mission of boycott which you say you and those associated with you intend to launch against my Country. The copies of the letters you mention are most illuminating of the ethical standards which actuate you. In one respect, however, you are right - Lord Inverchapel, our Ambassador, I am sure will not resort properly to your proposal: I hope he will courteously show the delegation the door.

But you should imagine that the British people or their Government would be likely to capitulate to the sort of economic pressure you think could be applied only shows how little you have learned of our history and how much you failed, when amongst us, to understand us. Our economic difficulties may be many and acute, but we are not for sale. Nor do I believe that more than a handful of the people of the United States would support such actions as the boycott, for which the Greeks say or may not have had a word: we in robust English the word is "blackmail".

Since you propose to launch a publicity campaign, I am sending a copy of your letter and enclosures to the Foreign Office here, and finally to the "Daily Herald".

I have shown your letter to Maya. She agrees with this reply. The correspondence is now closed.

Yours truly,

W. A. R. Smith, Esq.
The Ambassador's Office, S.E.
London S.E. 11.

FO

371

61933

Copy

2315 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.,
Washington 8, D.C.

May 21, 1947.

Lord Charles Latham,
House of Lords,
Chiltern Court,
London, England.

Dear Charles :

There is nothing I need to add on the political side to the letter I have just written Sidney Elliott. I know Sidney's influence in the party, but I am confident that if you find it possible to add your voice to it, there will be a marked change in the attitude and action of the Government on the Palestine situation.

We know that the Government's present position on the Palestine question has a profit and loss basis. I believe that the Government has much more to lose than it can ever hope to gain, boycott or no boycott, by continuing its present policy. The Government thinks otherwise. However, the introduction of this economic issue may cause Bevin to draw up a new balance sheet. If Bevin doesn't do so, at least Dalton and Cripps will do it. Perhaps their counsels will prevail.

We shall not be deflected from our purpose by the fact that the United Nations now has the Palestine question under consideration. We are certain of the outcome of that piece of play acting and we do not intend to lose six months or more in waiting for results that are a foregone conclusion. Therefore, there is need for haste in England. As I wrote Bevin when the Anglo-American Committee was engaged in its fruitless task, the Government will not lose face by announcing that in order to aid the Fact Finding Commission in reaching a just and practical solution for the Palestine problem, it has removed the question of the 1939 White Paper and of Hebrew immigration from consideration by abrogating that White Paper and by approving the immediate repatriation of the Hebrews in concentration and displaced persons camps of Europe.

This action will immediately result in the cessation of Underground Resistance, which in turn will make it possible for the Government to remove a great portion of the present British Army in Palestine and to re-establish its civil administration in place of the present police state.

I know that all of these ideas run counter to Bevin's stand on Palestine. He will have to eat a great many ill-chosen words, but I think that the issues at stake are far greater than the question of his personal discomfort and indigestion. I am sure there are plenty of surgeons in Britain who can cope with stomach ulcers.

Cordially,

(sgd). Johan J. Smertenko. 40

FO

371

61933

April 25, 1947

Dear William G. Sumner:

I have attended with a number of people here in Washington the possibility of taking some non-political action that may have an immediate effect on the situation in Palestine. The Committee of Sumner was one of the first to be formed to do this. The Committee of Sumner was one of the first to be formed to do this. The Committee of Sumner was one of the first to be formed to do this.

I am sure that the Committee of Sumner is a truly American organization and that it is the first time in the history of the world that a group of people have taken such a stand. The Committee of Sumner is a truly American organization and that it is the first time in the history of the world that a group of people have taken such a stand. The Committee of Sumner is a truly American organization and that it is the first time in the history of the world that a group of people have taken such a stand.

We have undoubtedly realized that I am driving at. I think we should make an announcement, to be called "Committee of Liberty Committee to Support Britain." I know no one more suitable for the post of President of the Committee than yourself, and I know that my plan for you to assume the responsibility of that post will be shared by thousands of our friends.

It is my idea that this Committee should declare itself to be completely non-political. It will say that it takes no stand on the ultimate character of Palestine and refuses to take sides with any of the competing organizations that concern themselves with the Palestine problem. The sole objective of the Committee of Liberty will be the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine and the re-establishment of an Administration which will guarantee the exercise of all civil rights and liberties to the entire population without any distinction of race, creed or national origin.

[illegible]

• hundred

41

It is my idea that this Committee should declare itself to be unambiguously non-political. It will say that it takes no stand on the ultimate question of Palestine and refuses to take sides with any of the competing organizations that concern themselves with the Palestine problem. The sole objective of the Jews of Liberty Committee will be the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine and the re-establishment of an Administration which will guarantee the securing of all civil rights and liberties to the entire population without any distinction of race, creed or national origin.

61934

I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people.

I am sure that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people.

I am sure that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people.

I am sure that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people.

I am sure that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people.

I am sure that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people. I believe that we are entitled to a small provisional committee over these questions as they are so new to our people.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Starnes

FO 371 61933

13
COPY

May 19, 1947.

Mr. Billy Rose,
Hotel Astor,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Billy:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter sent by Professor Schwartz to Judge Bennett which will serve as an outline for the proposal to initiate in this country a Boycott of British goods. As you know, Judge Bennett is the President of the Sons of the American Revolution and thus the ideal person to head this movement. I agree with Schwartz that this is the proper time to take the only kind of action which will influence British policy in Palestine. Unless we take this action immediately, it will be too late.

As I see the situation, Great Britain will be able to get practically what she wants from the Commission set up by the United Nations. The fact that Canada and Australia, India and China and Holland are on this Committee makes it certain that whatever British wants will be accepted in the final recommendations of that Committee. To be sure, the death blow to the Jewish people will be suitably disguised in many phrases of sympathy and good will, but Palestine will be lost and the surviving Hebrews in Europe will be lost with it.

What is necessary now is to impress upon the British Government that America can and will take action which will seriously affect British economy. Great Britain is desperately in need of cash. Her whole program for the next five years is based on the maximum sales and minimum purchases. Every dollar taken from that program is of tremendous importance to Great Britain.

I am convinced that the mere threat of a serious boycott will force Great Britain to make immediate concessions in the Palestine situation. Our plan incorporated this factor in the preliminary negotiations. We want to organize a strong committee, including in its membership representatives of the textile,

FO

371

61933

Mr. Billy Rose

- 2 -

May 19, 1947.

movie, bicycle, liquor, and other interests and we propose to have a delegation of this committee confer with the British Ambassador here and present him with an ultimatum. We shall ask for the immediate abrogation of the White Paper and the immediate repatriation of the Hebrews in European concentration camps with a minimum repatriation figure of 10,000 a month, as well as the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine, by a specified date as the condition which would cause us to desist from instituting this boycott. We shall make this ultimatum public in this country and see that its contents are communicated to our friends in the British Parliament and to some key figures in British industry. I believe this will bring results.

I am asking you, in common with all my other friends, to provide the means of organizing this boycott committee. I have contributed \$5,000 to the initial fund of \$50,000 necessary for getting this thing under way. We want to place advertisements in every large city in the United States and we want to send out an initial appeal to at least 100,000 key people in this country. Of course, we can rely on a vast number of small contributions to keep this thing going, but we count on you to help provide the means of getting started. Please send me your check immediately.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) William B. Ruff

FO

371

61984

Registry
No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

J. G. S. B.

Draft.

Lord Latham,
The County Hall,
London. S.E. 1.

(From the Minister
of State)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

TO OUT FILE

18 June, 1947.

Personal and Confidential

Thank you for your letter of June 2nd enclosing copies of correspondence exchanged by you with Professor Smertenko on the subject of a threatened boycott of British goods and services in the United States for the purpose of influencing the policy of H.M.G. in regard to Palestine.

We should ^{have} ~~see~~ no objection ^{whatsoever} to your communicating the correspondence to the "Daily Herald" as suggested, ~~and~~ ^{indeed} there would seem to be some advantage in doing so. As you will know, H.M.G. have made ^{very strong} ~~repeated~~ representations to the American Government about the advertisements in the United States press issued by Ben Hecht and the American League for ^a Free Palestine, calling for subscriptions in aid of Jewish terrorism and illegal immigration into Palestine. There seem to be signs that Ben Hecht's latest and most scurrilous advertisements have, if anything, lowered the stock of the Jewish extremists in the United States, and Professor Smertenko's letters to Judge Bennet and Mr. Billy Rose ~~would seem~~ ^{are} likely to have a similar effect. ~~if published.~~ ^{NY} It is important that the views expressed in this correspondence should be attributed to "Zionist extremists" and not to Zionism or Americans generally, and I should be/

publication of
it in full might
prove very useful
helping to frustrate
the Professor's
schemes by
giving them
premature
publicity.

14/6

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

be grateful if you could make this point with the "Daily Herald".

~~Finally, if the publication of this~~
correspondence is to have the effect we hope, it is essential that this Department should not appear in the matter but that you should make it clear that the initiative is entirely yours. I think we may well hope that, handled like this, the publication of the correspondence will give us a first-class opportunity of exposing to the deluded American public the ~~workings of the vast Zionist propaganda machine.~~

You will understand that the Foreign Office would not want to appear in any way connected with the publication of the correspondence.

*Wm
16/6*

16

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61934

17

(E 5184/5184/31)

My dear Latham

/ You

Lord Latham,
The County Hall,
S.E.1.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61934

17A

(sgd) Hector McNeil.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E

E 7149

7 AUG 1947

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

EY149/5184/1
 1/10/47
 200/324/47
 Aug 1.
 1947.

Last Paper.

5184

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Y.P.O.
 M.I.5 (L.H.R.)
 Aug 26

(Action
completed.)

Y.P.O.
 28/8

(Index)

14/9/48

Next Paper.

E9454

Boycott of British Goods in the U.S.
 Summary dictated received at the Embassy
 on July 28, which worked to 'pick off' the
 second 'about the possibility of preventing
 a boycott of British goods in the U.S.
 Summary of British Policy towards Political.

(Minutes.)

by L.O.
 M.I.5.
 N.A.P.O. 28/8

H.C. 20/8

9. P.P. 7. P. Minute W. Randall 23/9

Now see E9454/5184/6

13/10

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Wing Commander E.R. Millington, M.P., (Chelmsford, Labour) wishes to discuss with the Foreign Office the idea that he and two representatives of Jewish Trade Associations should visit the United States in order to urge American Zionists not to boycott British goods. He would also like to hold a few public meetings on the subject of British policy in Palestine.

I have discussed this with Mr. Ingleson, Board of Trade, who states that the boycott is only on a very small scale. He agrees with me that Wing Commander Millington is unlikely to convert the unconvertable and may indeed increase the boycott by giving it publicity. I should doubt also whether we want public meetings on Palestine at present.

In the absence of any Minister, would Mr. Burrows be prepared to see Wing Commander Millington? If so, Miss Jose will be glad to make the appointment.

F.B.A. Randall

(F.B.A. Randall)
23rd September, 1947.

Eastern Dept.

I agree that it would be undesirable to sponsor a trip on the lines proposed. It couldn't do any good and might do harm.

H. B. Smith
Sept. 23

*See further minutes
JB Oct. 10*

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1 2 3 4 5 6

1 2

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61934

4. Although there are isolated cases of British goods being boycotted, neither we nor the deputation have any evidence that a concerted campaign is being planned. We naturally have our ears to the ground on this matter, but so far have discovered nothing more than a few personal protests and abstentions and quite unorganized efforts by individuals to influence their friends. We feel fairly sure that British policy concerning illegal immigration is much more likely to lie at the root of such protests than doubt about H.M.G.'s attitude towards the recommendations of the United Nations. In general we had the impression that these gentlemen, although well-meaning, shared in the general ignorance which prevails in this country about Palestine, and we hope we did something to enlighten them.

/crow

1

2

3

4

5

6

1

2

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

FO

371 / 61934

- 3 -

We are sending a copy of this letter to Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

ba

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON					
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61934					

C O P Y

23
End

26th November 1945

Ernest Bevin Esq., M.P.,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Dear Mr. Bevin:

The United Nations Organization became effective October 24th 1945. The fifty-one nations included in it are, so far as the maintenance of peace is concerned, bound by the provisions of the San Francisco Charter. Each nation has surrendered something of its independent sovereignty so that peace may be maintained. Under Article 106 of the Charter, five not one - China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America - exercise full control until the assembly and security council are set up.

In reference to American participation in the Palestine situation we beg to submit that if the United Kingdom, as the Mandatory Power over Palestine, permits the resumption of free immigration of all persons into Palestine, which course it states will require force to maintain, the Mandatory Power has the right under the above-mentioned Article 106 to invoke the aid of the four Associate Nations in maintaining peace.

Respectfully,

Guy M. Gillette
Chairman and former Senator from Iowa

Fowler Harper
Professor Law School, Indiana University

Joseph Sharfsin,
Former City Solicitor, Philadelphia,

Johan J. Smertenko
Author and Editor

William S. Bennet,
Former Representative in Congress
from New York

Andrew L. Somers
Representative in
Congress from
N.Y. State

J. David Stern
Publisher

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

Reference:-
FO
371 / 61934

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Piece 61924

E9454/5184/31

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61934